United Nations S/2000/1257

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 December 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 29 December 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Attached herewith is a letter which the Government of Uganda would like to have circulated as a document of the Security Council (see annex).

(*Signed*) J. D. Semambo **Kalema**
for the Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-81564 (E) 291200

Annex to the letter dated 29 December 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The attention of the Government of Uganda has been drawn to the unfounded allegations contained in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On instruction of my Government, I have the honour to refute the allegation that Ugandan troops were involved in an offensive in the Equateur Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Uganda wishes to make it clear that it was not in any way involved in the fighting which took place last week between Congolese Government troops and the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) rebels. It further wishes to draw attention to the fact that the fighting started with air strikes launched by Congolese Government troops on Gbadolite, Gemina, Dongo and Ekefel'a. This provoked the MLC rebels to advance on the ground against positions held by Government troops. Uganda had no role in these clashes.

Uganda wishes to state that its troop deployment remains the same as declared in April 2000 and stands ready to withdraw these troops in accordance with the Kampala disengagement plan of 8 April 2000 and with the follow-up agreements of 28 November in Maputo, and 8 December, in Harare, within the framework of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

The Security Council is requested, in particular, to note that the main responsibility for the delay in the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement lies squarely with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has obstructed the deployment of the observer troops of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and therefore made it impossible for the United Nations to monitor the ceasefire as well as supervise the disengagement of troops belonging to former belligerent countries and rebel groups of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Finally, the Government of Uganda wishes to reaffirm its full commitment to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and to express its readiness to cooperate in the disengagement of troops and their withdrawal from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in accordance with the relevant provisions for the Agreement, provided that other signatories fulfil their own obligations under the Agreement as required by Security Council resolution 1304 (2000).

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) J. D. Semambo **Kalema**
for the Chargé d'affaires a.i.